

Application No. 09/928,610

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are now in the application. No claims have been canceled. The specification and claim 22 have been amended correct typographical errors. No new claims have been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16-19, 21-22, 25-30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith (USPN 6,026,078). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), on the grounds that Smith does not anticipate the present invention. Under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a reference must show or describe each and every element claimed in order to anticipate the claims. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California* 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987) ("A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."). As will be discussed in detail below, Smith does not expressly or inherently describe each and every element set forth in claims 1, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16-19, 21-22, 25-30, and 32.

Claim 1 relates to a communication hub comprising, among other things, a control system configured to switch between a configuration mode and an operation mode, and a mode selection interface configured to receive an input from a user that selects one of the configuration mode and the operation mode. Examiner asserts that a configuration mode in the present invention is analogous to the hub mode in Smith. Likewise, examiner asserts that an operation mode is analogous to the station mode in Smith. However, the modes described in Smith are entirely different from the modes of the instant invention.

More specifically, Smith teaches two port modes (a hub mode, and a station mode) in a Token Ring hub. When in hub mode, a port may be used to communicate with another Token Ring hub. Alternatively, when in station mode, a port may be used to communicate with a Token Ring network device. Configuration of a port leaves the port in one of these two modes. Further, Smith requires the use of relays to electrically switch port wires in order to reconfigure a port to either mode.

Application No. 09/928,610

In contrast, configuring communication hub in the instant invention does not require the use of relays. When in configuration mode, the communication hub may be configured for any number of device types, including but not limited to, telephones, fax machines, modems, answering machines, computers, stereos, and televisions. The configuration mode of the instant invention therefore provides capability related to a diverse plurality of devices, not the single-device-per-mode arrangement disclosed by Smith. The configuration mode of the present invention also provides for the authorization of previously unauthorized communication devices to work with the hub. Smith simply does not teach authorizing unauthorized devices.

Since Smith does not disclose, either expressly or inherently, the communication hub and configuration mode that are present in this claim, claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-6, 8-9, and 11 should be allowed.

Claim 12 relates to a method of operating a communication hub comprising, among other things, receiving a registration request from an unauthorized communication device in response to switching to a configuration mode, and in response to receiving a registration request, processing the registration request to automatically authorize the communication device for use with the communication hub. As discussed above, Smith does not teach the configuration mode of the present invention, nor does Smith teach authorizing unauthorized devices. Since Smith does not disclose, either expressly or inherently, all the elements that are present in this claim, claim 12 and its dependent claims 13, 16-19, and 21 should be allowed.

Claim 22 relates to a software product comprising, among other things, control system software operational when executed on a processor to switch between a configuration mode and an operation mode, wherein responsive to switching to the configuration mode the control system is configured to receive a registration request from an unauthorized communication device and process the registration request to automatically authorize the communication device for use with the communication hub. As discussed above, Smith does not teach the configuration mode of the present invention, nor does Smith teach authorizing unauthorized devices. Since Smith does not disclose, either expressly or inherently, all the elements that are present in this claim, claim 22 and its dependent claims 25-30 and 32 should be allowed.

Application No. 09/928,610

Claim Rejections – 36 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-3, 7, 14-15, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith as applied to claims 1, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16-19, 21-22, 25-30, and 32 and further in view of Reichmeyer et al (USPN 6,286,038). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on the grounds that Smith and Reichmeyer, neither alone nor in combination, teach or suggest all the claimed elements.

More specifically, neither Smith nor Reichmeyer, alone or in combination, teach the configuration mode, nor the authorization of unauthorized devices as claimed in independent claims 1, 12, and 22, and thus incorporated in dependent claims 2-3, 7, 14-15, and 23-24. For this reason, claims 2-3, 7, 14-15, and 23-24 should be allowed.

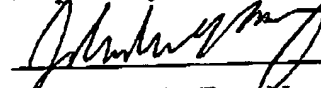
Conclusion

As all claims now in the application are in condition for allowance, Applicant requests the application be allowed and pass to issuance as soon as possible.

It is believe that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 21-0765.

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Respectfully submitted,



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